

ABSOLUTE BATMAN™



ALL IN

13+
TEEN 6



SNYDER
DRAGOTTA
MARTIN

ALL IN



ABSOLUTE



Written by **DENIZ CAMP** • Art and cover by **JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ**

A startling evolution of the Absolute Universe beginning in **MARCH**

--IDENTIFIED AS **ROMAN SIONIS**, IS DROPPING CRATES FILLED WITH **MASKS AND FIREARMS** ACROSS GOTHAM CITY IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO JOIN HIS PARTY **ANIMALS'** REIGN OF VIOLENCE.

EVERYONE WATCHING IS URGED TO STAY **INSIDE** AND LOCK YOUR DOORS.

KRAASH

OH, YOU PICKED THE **WRONG** GYM, CHIEF. I'M WAYLON "CROC" JONES, FORMER AFC CHAMP, AND I'VE BEEN **HUNGRY** FOR A GOOD FIGHT FOR TOO--

IT'S ME, WAY...

BRUCE? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?! DID THE PARTY ANIMALS--

--OW!

WHAT THE... WHY...

BECAUSE I'M **BATMAN**.

AND I NEED YOUR HELP.

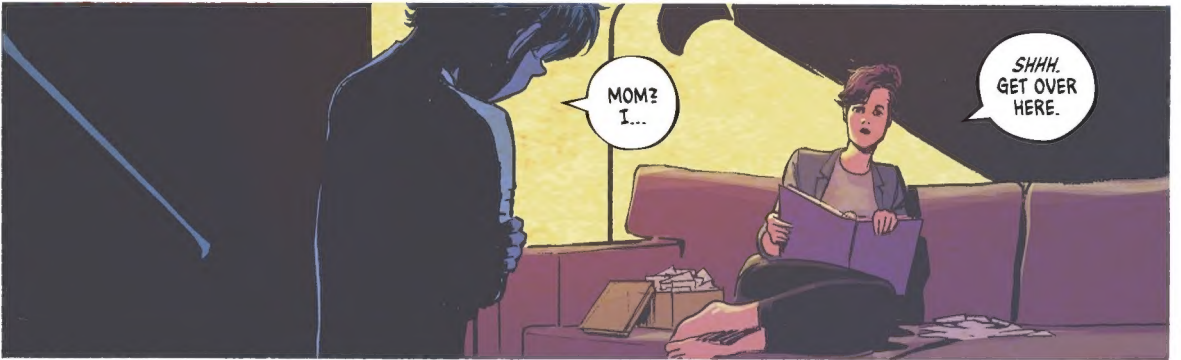


ABSOLUTE
BATMAN

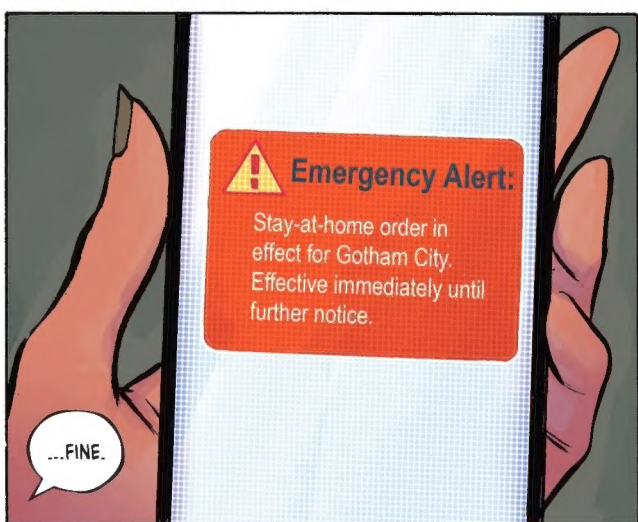
"THE ZOO"

PART SIX











YOU'RE @#\$\$%
BATMAN?! AND
YOU DIDN'T THINK
MAYBE THIS WAS
SOMETHING TO
MENTION?



I WAS
TRYING TO
PROTECT YOU,
OZZIE...

...ALL OF
YOU.



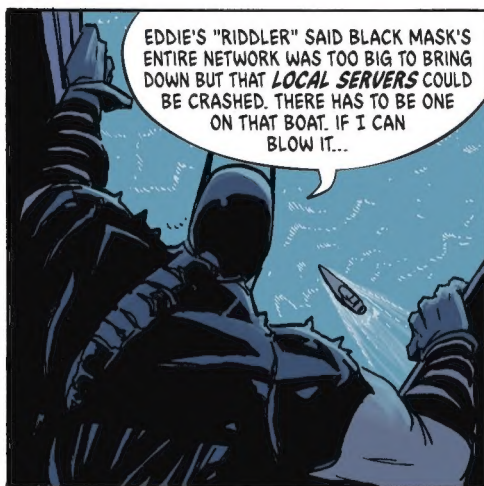
WELL, IT'S OUT OF THE @#\$\$%& BAG
NOW. WAYLON WANTS TO **PUNCH** YOU.
HARVEY WANTS TO **ARREST** YOU.
EDDIE SAYS HE GUESSED IT
WEEKS AGO, THE JACKASS.

WHO **KNOWS**
WHAT SELINA WILL...
ACTUALLY, SHE'LL PROBABLY THINK IT'S HOT.



BUT **ME?!**
PERSONALLY, I FIND IT
ABSOLUTELY--

THERE!



EDDIE'S "RIDDLER" SAID BLACK MASK'S
ENTIRE NETWORK WAS TOO BIG TO BRING
DOWN BUT THAT **LOCAL SERVERS** COULD
BE CRASHED. THERE HAS TO BE ONE
ON THAT BOAT. IF I CAN
BLOW IT...



**BLOW
IT?**



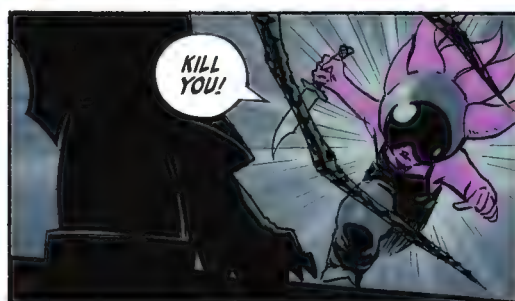
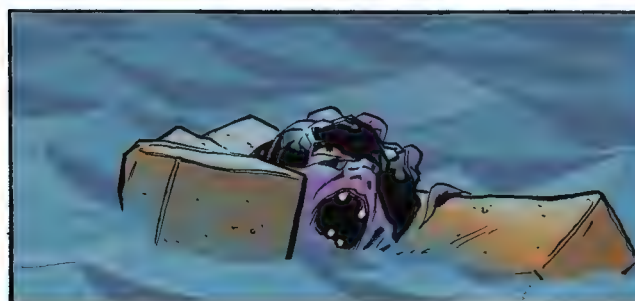
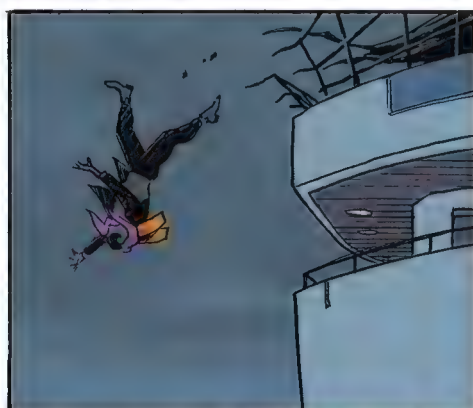
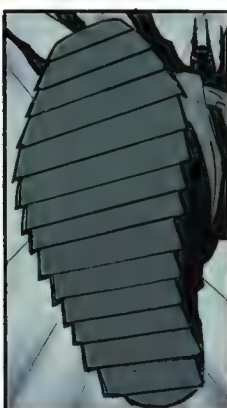
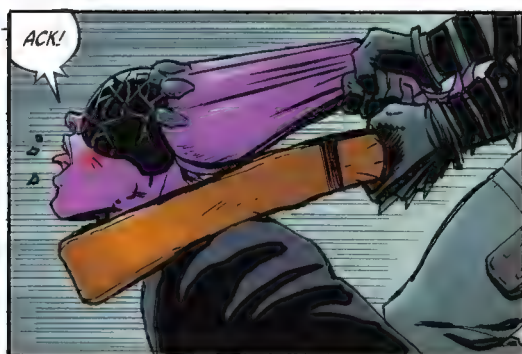
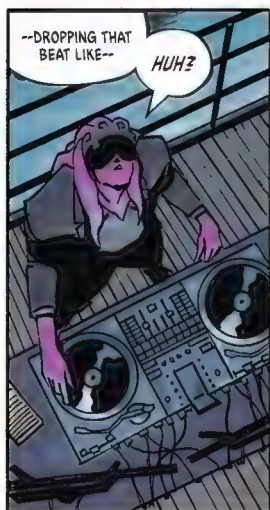
BRUCE, YOU DO
THIS, YOU'RE ON YOUR
OWN. I **BARELY** HAVE ENOUGH
@#\$\$% FUEL TO MAKE IT
BACK TO GOTHAM. I CAN'T
STICK AROUND TO
SAVE YOU!

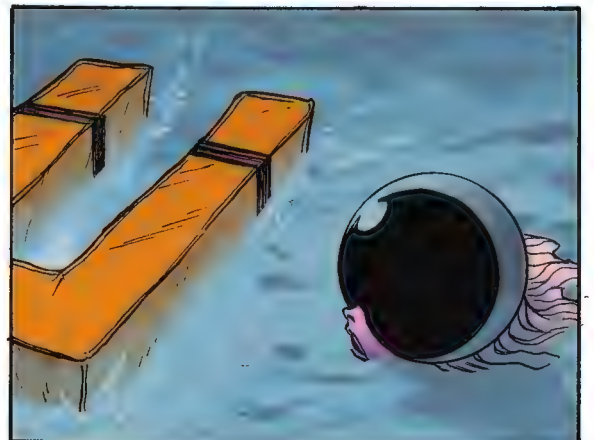
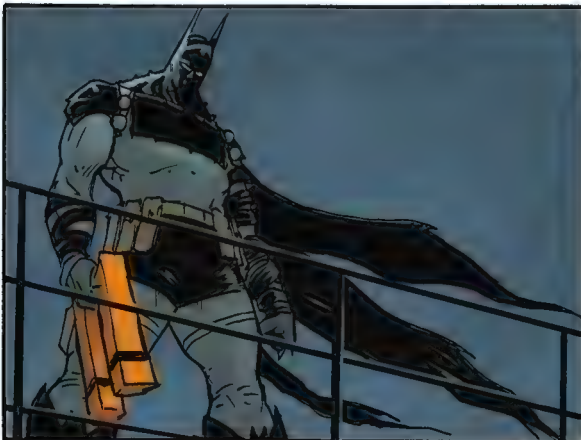
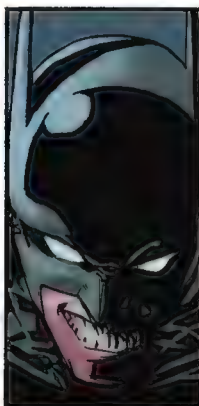
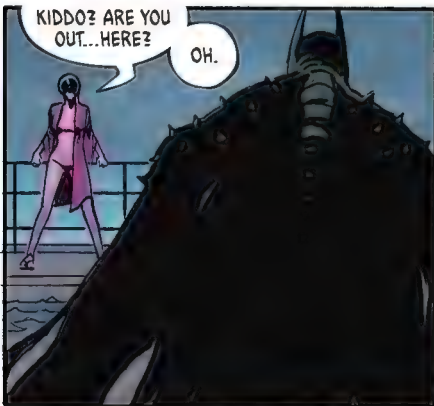
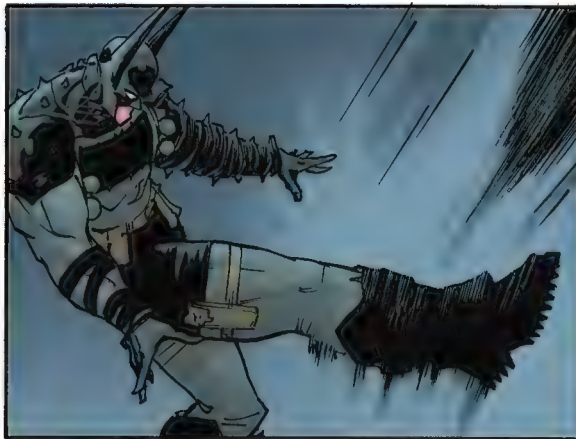


I'M NOT
ASKING YOU TO.
OR ANYONE
ELSE.













"...HE SNAPPED IT AT THE ZOO, JUST BEFORE THE SHOOTING STARTED."

YOU CAN THREATEN ALL YOU WANT, BUT MAYOR GORDON AND I AREN'T GIVING YOU THESE MASKS!

BACK AWAY! FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE CITY!

OH, THAT'S **RICH!** ALL THIS HAPPENED ON **YOUR** WATCH, GORDON! WE'RE JUST TRYING TO GET SOMETHING FOR OURSELVES BEFORE IT ALL GOES TO HELL!



YOU ALL **SAW** BATMAN'S FEED! ALL BLACK MASK WANTS IS GOTHAM IN CHAOS! HE'S USING US! MAYBE SO HIS CRONIES CAN PROFIT, OR GET MORE CONTROL... WHO KNOWS?

BUT ALL THIS IS A DAMN **GAME** TO HIM AND THE ONLY WAY **WE** WIN IS BY **NOT** PLAYING.



YEAH, WELL, MAYBE THAT'S **ALL** THAT'S LEFT THESE DAYS--A GAME MOST OF US NEVER GET TO PLAY UNLESS WE GET LUCKY. AND YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN QUICKER, FOLKS.



CHECK THE **VALUES** ON THEM!

THE GUY IS SMALL TIME, BUT THAT'S GORDON AND HIS DEPUTY MAYOR...



target i.d.
murder
Deputy Mayor
Martha Wayne
\$ 1,000,000.00

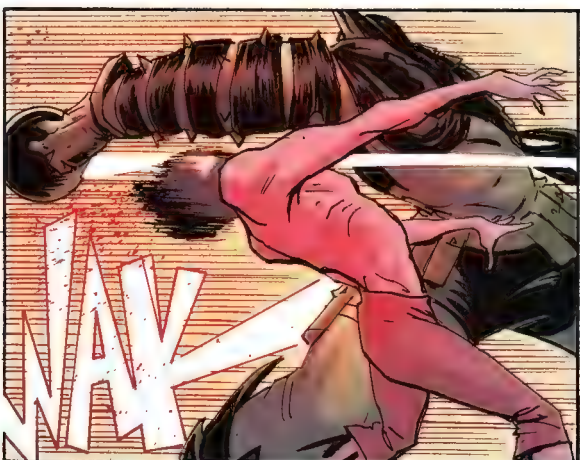
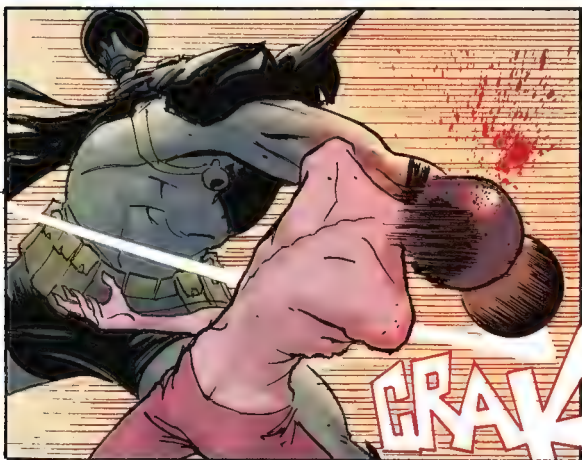
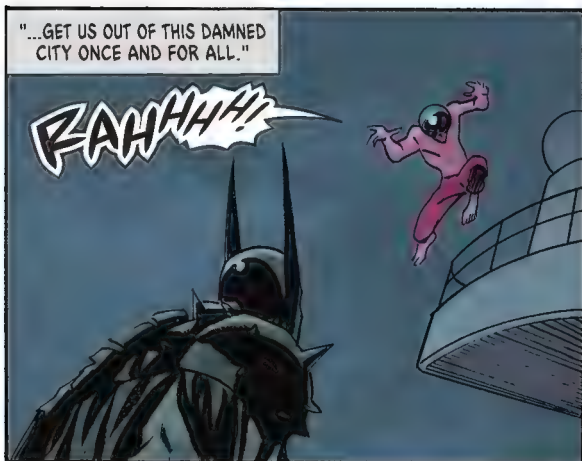
murder
Mayor James Gordon
\$ 1,000,000.00

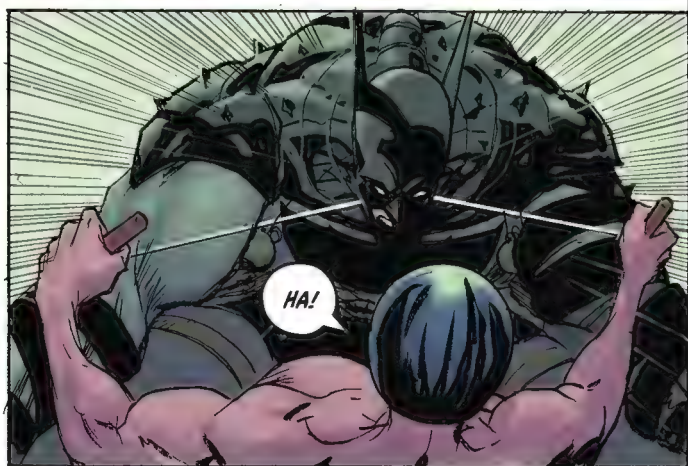
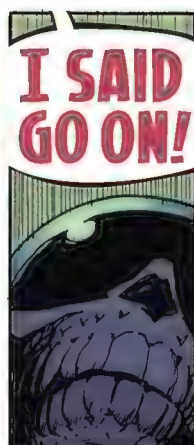
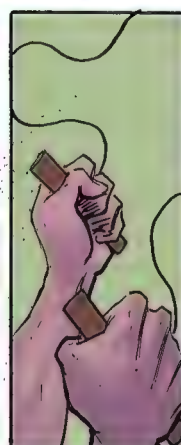
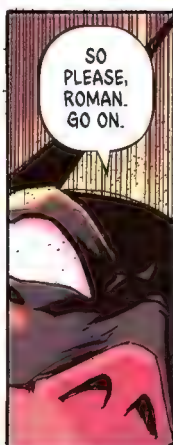
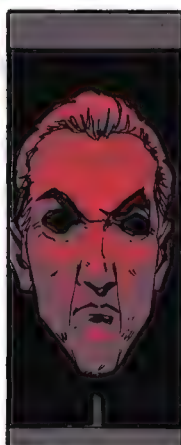
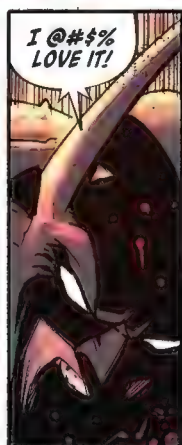
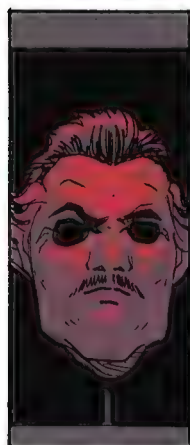
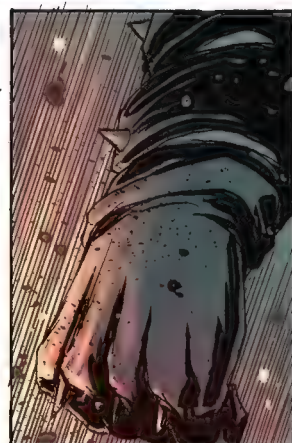
murder
unknown...
\$ 10,000

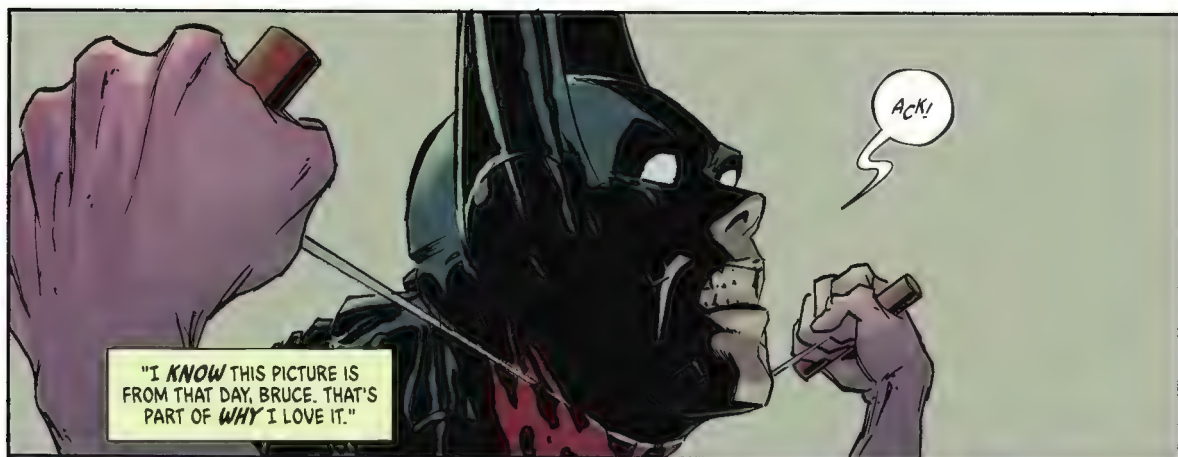
...AND LOOK! THEY'RE EACH WORTH A **MILLION DOLLARS!**

"DON'T DO THIS!"









"I **KNOW** THIS PICTURE IS FROM THAT DAY, BRUCE. THAT'S PART OF **WHY** I LOVE IT."

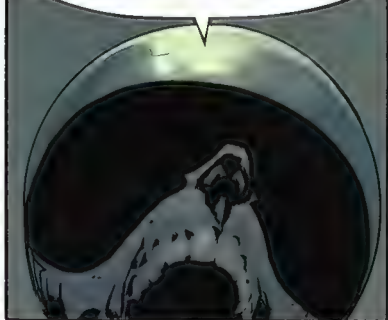


"I DON'T UNDERSTAND."

WELL BABY, WHEN THINGS ARE ROUGH, BELIEVING YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE? BEING **HOPEFUL**? IT'S NOT EASY.



YOU KNOW I **LIED** ABOUT THE PIGS? MY FAVORITE THING WASN'T WHEN THEY LOVED IT. NAH...THE BEST WAS WHEN THEY FOUGHT! WHEN THEY STRUGGLED RIGHT UP UNTIL THE END!



BUT THAT'S WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK AT THESE PICTURES.



WHEN THEY NEVER BELIEVED THE BOLT COULD COME! WHEN THEY THOUGHT THEY COULD WIN! THE **SCREAM** THEY MADE...

BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW HARD THINGS GOT, AND THEY WERE ROUGH SOMETIMES, YOUR DAD STAYED HOPEFUL.



THAT **SHRIEK!** BEST SOUND IN THE WORLD!

CHK CHK



BUT HE WAS ALWAYS AT HIS **MOST** HOPEFUL...ABOUT **YOU**.



CHOOM

DID IT...SOUND... ANYTHING LIKE THIS?



A MILLION FOR EACH OF THEM? THAT'S REAL MONEY, MAN.

murder
Martha Wayne
\$ 1,000,000.00

murder
James Gordon
\$ 1,000,000.00

...YOU @#\$\$% LUNATIC. YOU WILL **LOSE** EVERYTHING.

EVERYONE YOU LOVE. I PROMISE YOU. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE STARTED...

I CAN'T CUT DOWN A WOMAN. LET'S DO GORDON AND SPLIT IT.

FINE! LADY, GO! GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE CHANGE OUR MINDS.

"MOM? I KEEP HAVING THESE NIGHTMARES WHERE YOU DIE."

target i.d.
Martha Wayne
murder
\$ 1,000,000.00

NO! I SAW YOUR FACES BEFORE YOU PUT ON THOSE MASKS. YOU SHOOT HIM, WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER I WILL MAKE SURE YOU **PAY** FOR IT!

murder
James Gordon
\$ 1,000,000.00

MAR, WHAT ARE YOU--

SO IF YOU'RE KILLING HIM? YOU MIGHT AS WELL START WITH ME.

BUT, YOU ARE **BETTER** THAN THIS, YOU HEAR ME? **WE** ARE BETTER THAN THIS!

murder
Martha Wayne
\$ 1,000,000.00

"I WILL DIE ONE DAY, BRUCE..."

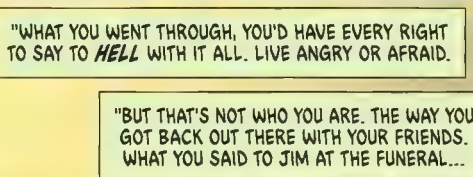
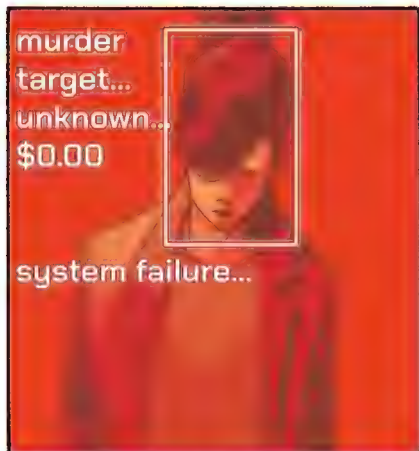
PING

I'M SORRY, MRS. WAYNE. I AM.

CHIK
CHIK

BOOM

"...AND YOU WILL, TOO..."





"YOU WEAR
THE PAIN LIKE
A DAMN CAPE.

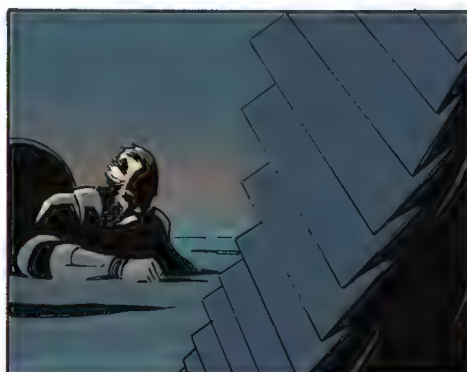


"AND YOU WORK
EVERY DAY TO
STOP THOSE BAD
THINGS FROM
EVER HAPPENING
AGAIN.

"THAT'S HOW YOU
WIN AGAINST THE
NIGHTMARES.



"HOW YOU WIN
AGAINST ALL OF
IT. ALWAYS."



UH-UH,
KID.

IF I'M
STICKING
AROUND,
SO ARE
YOU.



NOW...
LET'S GET
YOU PATCHED
UP.

WRITER: SCOTT SNYDER • ARTIST: NICK DRAGOTTA
COLORIST: FRANK MARTIN • LETTERER: CLAYTON COWLES

COVER: DRAGOTTA • MARTIN • VARIANT COVERS: FRANK QUITELY; SIMON BISLEY; ALEX MALEEV;
JOHN MCCREA & JOHN KALISZ • ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SABRINA FUTCH • EDITOR: KATIE KUBERT
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: CHRIS CONROY • BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER

EPILOGUE.



SIRZ SIONIS
IS REPORTING. IT
SEEMS THERE'S BEEN
A SMALL...SNAG IN
GOTHAM CITY.

I'M
AWARE.



IT'S
TIME.



GET
BANE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

ABSOLUTE

MARTIAN MANHUNTER

#1 PREVIEW

WRITER **DENIZ CAMP**
ARTIST **JAVIER RODRIGUEZ**
LETTERS **HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU**

YOU LOOK FOR
IDENTIFIABLE
PATTERNS.

ANYTHING
TO MAKE THE
WORLD NOT
RANDOM.

THAT'S WHAT
STOCHASTIC
MEANS.

RANDOM.

(How do
I know?)

POOR,
TRAPPED
THINGS. LIGHT
THEMSELVES
ON FIRE TO
ESCAPE.







I STAY AWAKE ALL NIGHT, TRYING NOT TO THINK OF...

... OF THE SMOKE...

... OF WHAT'S WAITING FOR ME IN IT...



HAVE YOU EVER TRIED NOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING?



IT'S ALL YOU CAN THINK OF.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

ABSOLUTE
MARTIAN MANHUNTER #1

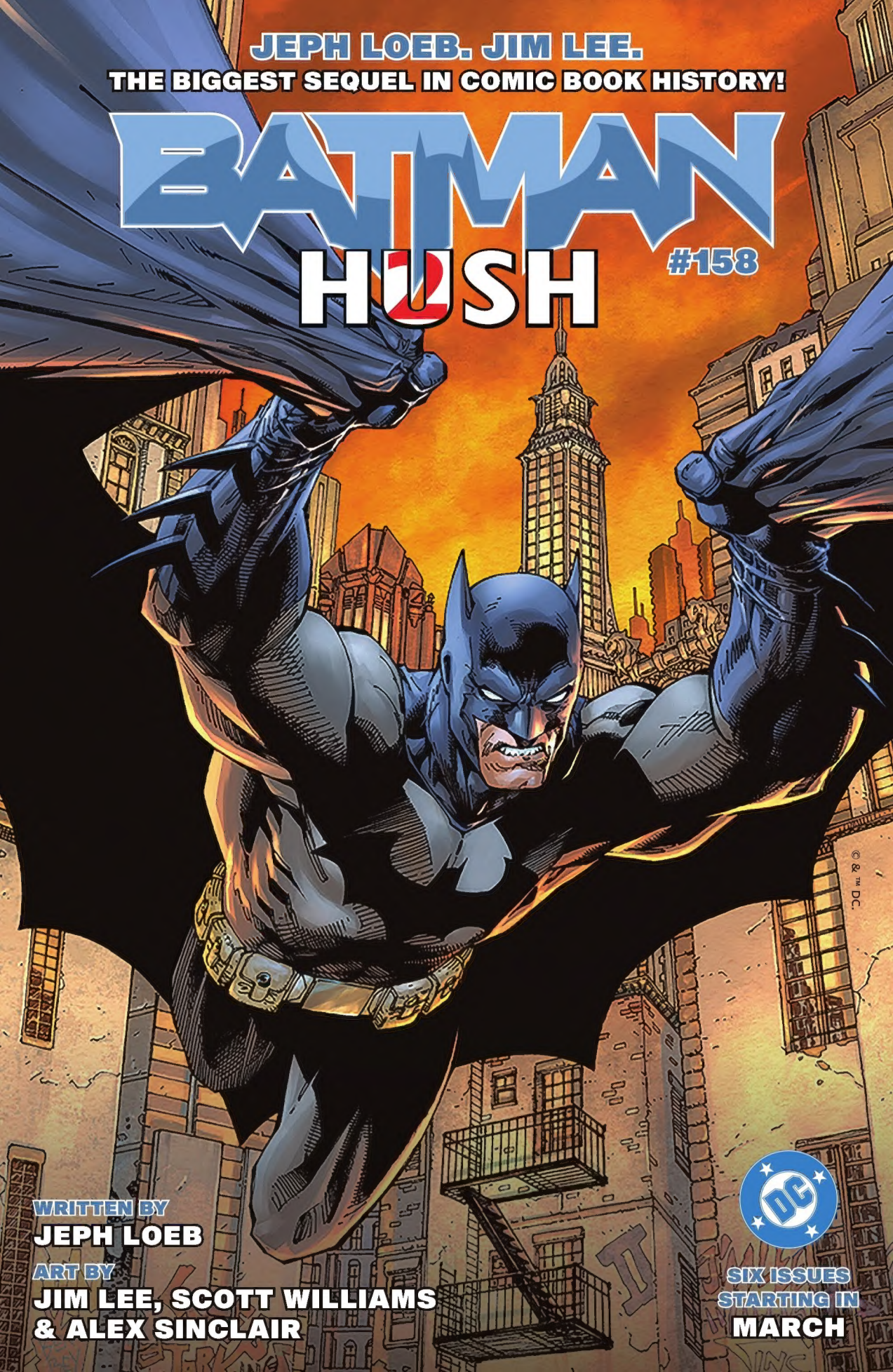
ON SALE IN MARCH!

JEPH LOEB. JIM LEE.
THE BIGGEST SEQUEL IN COMIC BOOK HISTORY!

BATMAN

HUSH

#158



WRITTEN BY
JEPH LOEB

ART BY
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS
& ALEX SINCLAIR



SIX ISSUES
STARTING IN
MARCH

BATMAN HUSH

INTERVIEW WITH JEPH LOEB AND JIM LEE

For more than two decades, “Hush” by writer Jeph Loeb and artist Jim Lee has stood as one of the most popular and influential Batman stories of the 21st century. Now the comics superstars have reunited for a six-part sequel starting in *Batman* #158 and titled “H2SH,” with Hush, the titular villain introduced back in 2002, out for revenge against the Dark Knight.

Why was now the right time for “H2SH”?

Jim Lee: We’ve talked about coming back and doing a follow-up to “Hush” for a while. For a variety of reasons, the timing was never right. Because we’re doing the All In initiative, where we launched the Absolute line but still wanted crazy things to happen in the core line, it made this return to Hush the right opportunity.

The challenge we had was, how do we recapture that excitement, yet do something new? Jeph, to his credit, crafted a story that feels very much like the opposite side of the coin to what he did 20 years ago. It establishes a new status quo for Batman, new villains, new looks, new locations.

Jeph Loeb: For 20 years, everywhere I’ve gone, people have asked me whether or not we’re going to do it again. My answer was always very honest: When Jim’s ready to go, I’ll be ready to go. I was in a little tiny airport in Italy, outside of Lucca; my phone rings, and Jim says, “I think it’s time for us to revisit these characters and to really come up with something that can not only build on what we did 20 years ago, but take it to the next level.” That was the challenge. Certainly artistically, I have no doubt in my mind that Jim, Scott [Williams], and Alex [Sinclair] outdid themselves.



How has Hush himself evolved between these two stories?

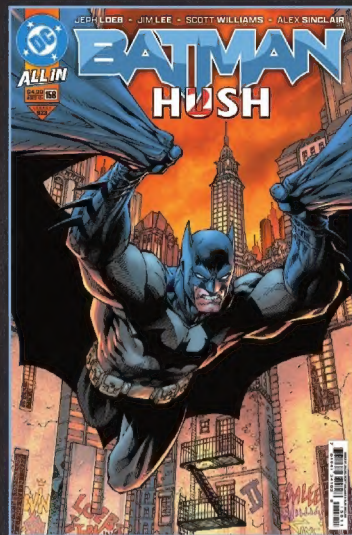
Loeb: So much of what we did in the first story was to play with, “Who is Hush? What does he want? What’s going on?” We’ve now established all that, so in many ways, this is a revenge story. He’s learned so much, and one of the great things about the character is that he’s a master manipulator. He likes the game of it. It’s like moving pieces on a chessboard. You don’t want to always play the same game. You want to take it in a new direction.



Jim, in what ways has your visual approach to these characters changed since the original “Hush”?

Lee: All the characters resemble the iconic versions of themselves, but we changed surface elements—melding the work that was done 20 years ago with the work we’re doing today.

We’re trying to do new kinds of shots, new angles, new color schemes. We’re challenging ourselves across the board, because we know there are high expectations. It’s also a great way to motivate ourselves, to do hopefully our best creative work.



DON’T MISS BATMAN #158, THE FIRST CHAPTER OF “H2SH,” ON SALE IN MARCH!

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